

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

As it stands now, I have no choice in my cable provider, an AM talk radio spectrum in lock step with associated television stations and one newspaper with a decided political viewpoint. The fact that there are more television, radio or newspaper outlets means nothing if they are all owned and controlled by the same media giant.

Our democracy depends upon an informed public. Consolidating control of the media in a few hands subverts the entire concept of providing unbiased information to the public as well as a diversity of entertainment.

The cable news stations are perhaps the best example of the dangers of rules relaxation: 24 hour "news" channels run by owners with a decided political bent. They are undeterred from polluting the airwaves with personal attacks on those they oppose and fawning praise for those they support. I submit that, rather than loosen ownership rules, the FCC ought to consider strengthening broadcast news standards for cable stations. Opinion and baseless rumors ought never to be allowed to pass as fact.

I, for one, am outraged that the FCC is considering allowing this consolidation to expand. I desire more diversity in the viewpoints and programming to which I have access. I fail to understand how anyone of intelligence can confuse a numerical increase in outlets (most owned by a few companies) with an actual increase in true choice of programming.